

Robert M. and Matilda Grindley House

123 Parsons

Local

State

State Marker

National v 12/1/97

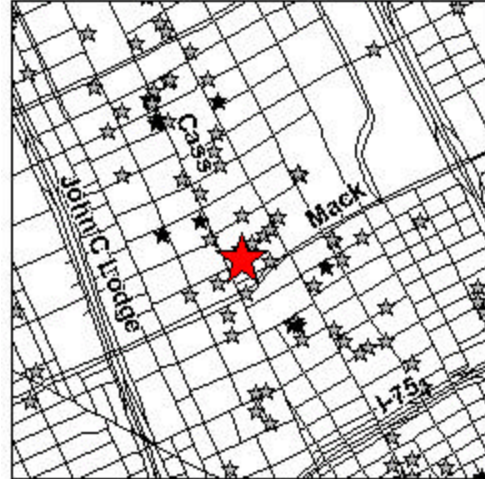


Photo courtesy of woodwardheritage.com

Historic overview:

The Grindley house is significant for its association with members of the Grindley family, who made significant contributions to the development of the City of Detroit, the social development of youth, and to various churches. Constructed in 1897, this was the home of the Grindley family, including five children. Some of the children continued to live in the house well into their adult years.

Robert McBride Grindley lived at 123 Parsons from childhood, and married Matilda Kitch in 1891. Robert was the oldest and best-known real estate agent in the city by the time of his death in 1946. As president of City & Suburban Homes Company, Ltd., Robert pioneered much subdivision in Detroit's western and northwestern sections. Many homes were sold on an easy payment plan, enabling hundreds of people to buy their own home that otherwise could not. The company also helped manufacturers locate sites for plants, and found temporary and permanent homes for their workers. By 1905, City & Suburban Homes was one of the most progressive real estate businesses in this part of the country. Robert was also instrumental in establishing the Boys Club of Detroit, supported the Boy Scouts, and was a Charter Member of the Detroit Board of Commerce.

Sarah A. Grindley, (1860-1945) devoted her entire life to Christian service. She opened several Sunday schools and a camp. She was godmother to many children whose fathers made their lives in factories. Joseph Grindley, (1869-1961) was involved in many philanthropic pursuits, founding a camp for under-privileged children and working with many churches and children's clubs. The Grindley home was sold out of the family after Joseph's death.

